



# Timing is Everything: The Impact of Cover Crop Planting Date

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# Why is Planting Date Important for Cover Crops?

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- To optimize successful establishment
- To realize the desired performance of the cover crop
- To get optimal fall growth
- **Varies** depending on the cover crop species and sometimes variety

More planting information - Midwest Cover Crops Council

- [www.midwestcovercrops.org](http://www.midwestcovercrops.org)

# Why is Planting Cover Crops at the Ideal Time a Challenge?

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- There is a crop in the field
- Harvest priorities
- Labor and equipment availability
- \$\$\$
- Weather

Strategies to overcome these challenges...?

# Trials

GOAL: Understand performance of common cover crops after different planting dates across IL

- Belleville, Ewing, Perry, Monmouth
- Cereal Rye (before soybean)
  - 3 planting dates and 4 seeding rates
    - (0) 30, 60, 90, & 120 lb/A
  - 2 termination timings
    - 18-24" & at heading
  - 'Hazlet' Cereal Rye
- Clovers (after soybeans)
  - 3 planting dates
  - Balansa 'Fixation' & Crimson 'Sunrise'



# Planting Date Matters

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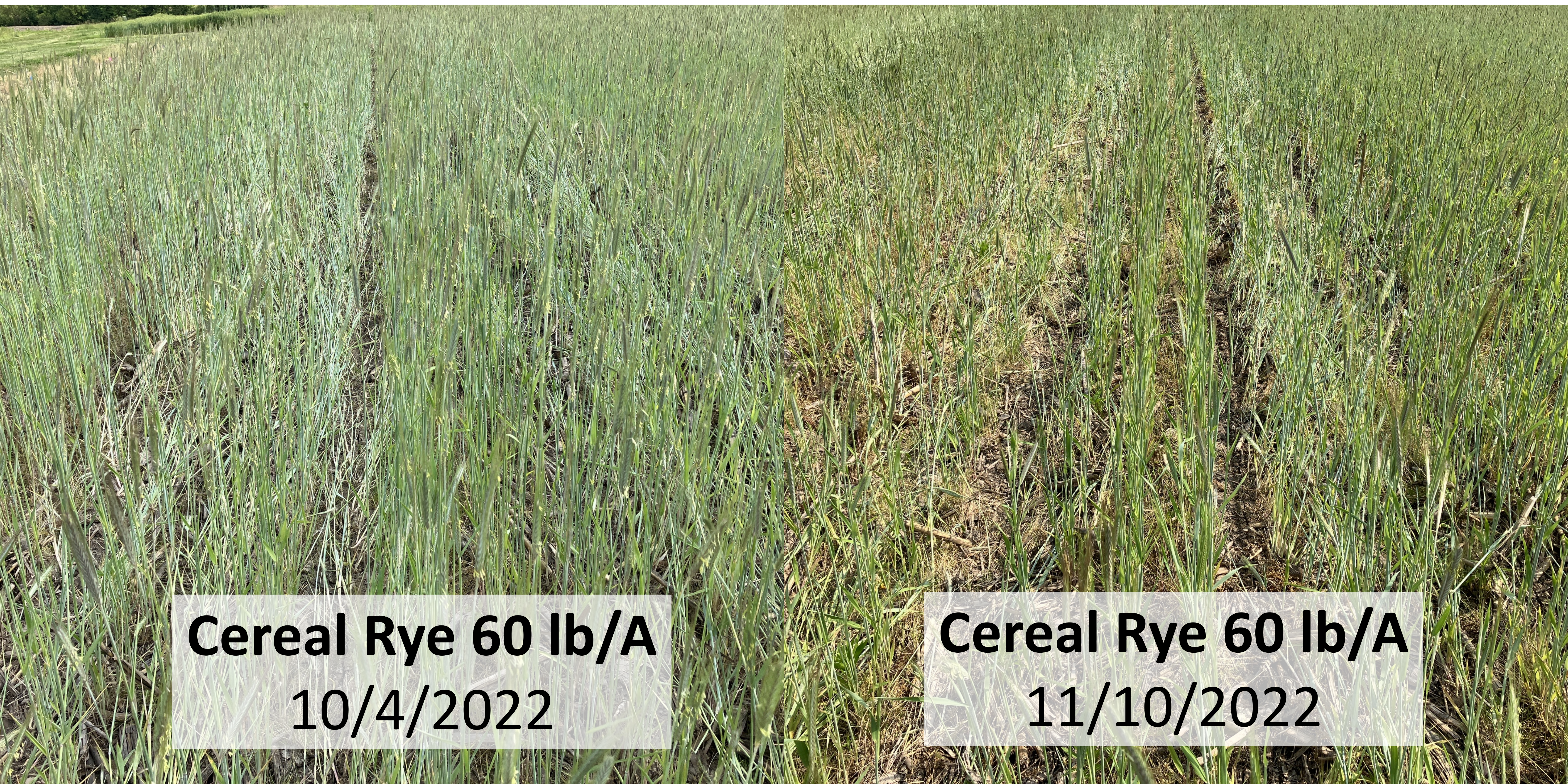
Planting Date	Crimson	Balansa
	<i>lb dry biomass/A</i>	
Early	559	3556
Mid	71	1211
Late	0	98

**Balansa Clover**  
10/3/2022

**Balansa Clover**  
10/17/2022

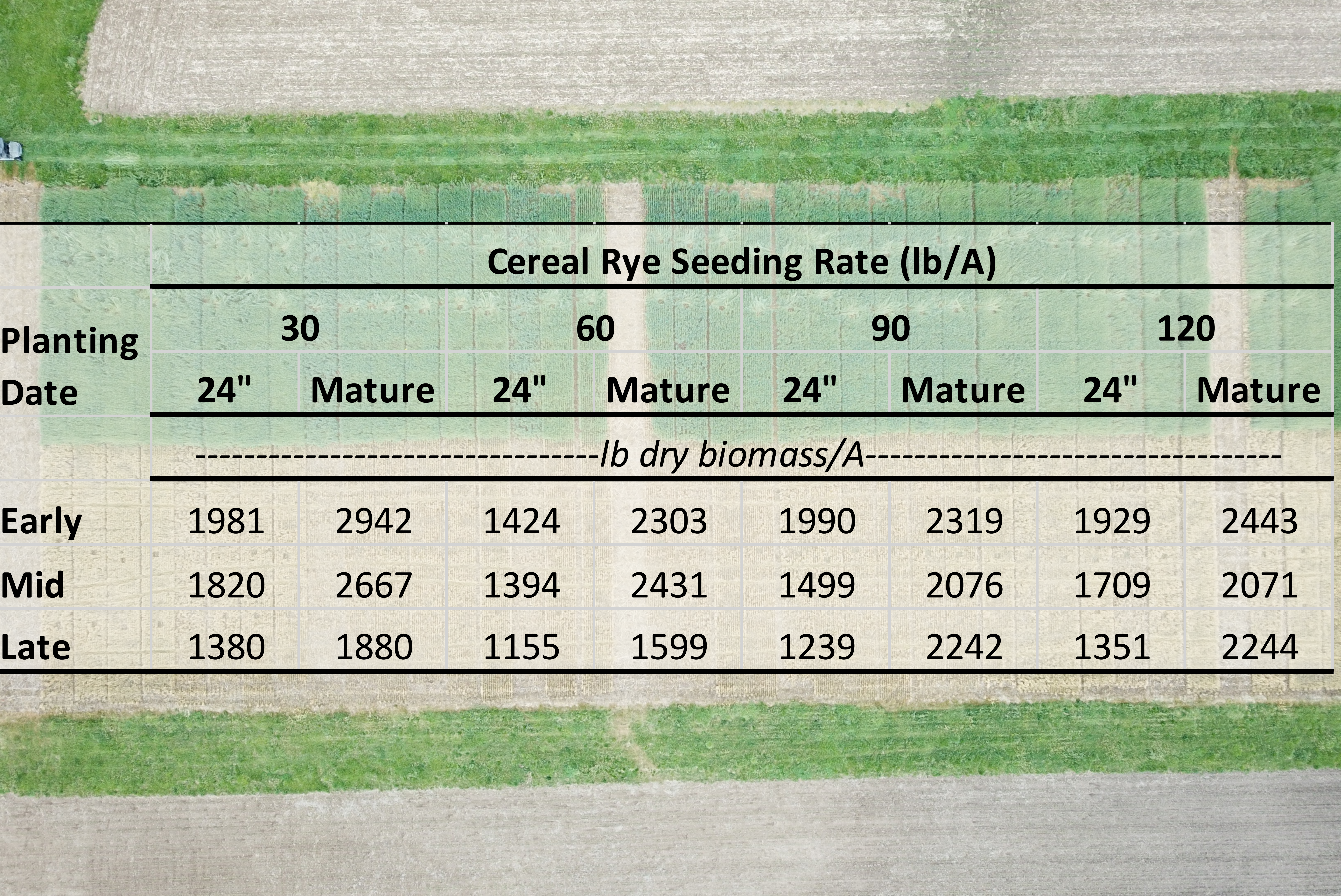
# Planting Date Matters

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**Cereal Rye 60 lb/A**  
**10/4/2022**

**Cereal Rye 60 lb/A**  
**11/10/2022**



	<b>Cereal Rye Seeding Rate (lb/A)</b>							
<b>Planting</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>60</b>		<b>90</b>		<b>120</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>
	<i>-----lb dry biomass/A-----</i>							
<b>Early</b>	1981	2942	1424	2303	1990	2319	1929	2443
<b>Mid</b>	1820	2667	1394	2431	1499	2076	1709	2071
<b>Late</b>	1380	1880	1155	1599	1239	2242	1351	2244

# Thoughts for the 2023-24 planting season...

- Generally, earlier is better for planting
  - Set goals and plan for logistics for harvest/cover crop planting
  - Choose/change species to accommodate planting date and fit goals
  - Set planting equipment to for best seed placement
- Think about your target termination and planting method before you ever plant this fall.





<b>Cereal Rye Seeding Rate (lb/A) - Orr Center</b>								
<b>Planting</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>60</b>		<b>90</b>		<b>120</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>24"</b>	<b>Mature</b>
	----- <i>lb dry biomass/A</i> -----							
<b>Early</b>	4896	8629	4634	9088	5336	8286	5824	6991
<b>Mid</b>	4436	6414	4689	7504	4782	7456	4687	7979
<b>Late</b>	2269	4236	3469	6294	2937	7040	3579	6878



No Cover

30 lb/A - Early

60 lb/A - Early

90 lb/A - Early

120 lb/A - Early

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30 lb/A - Mid

60 lb/A - Mid

90 lb/A - Mid

120 lb/A - Mid

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30 lb/A - Late

60 lb/A - Late

90 lb/A - Late

120 lb/A - Late

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## Cereal Rye Seeding Rate (lb/A) - Monmouth

Planting Date	30		60		90		120	
	24"	Mature	24"	Mature	24"	Mature	24"	Mature
	----- <i>lb dry biomass/A</i> -----							
<b>Early</b>	1231	2138	2626	5067	2480	3949	2459	4387
<b>Mid</b>	846	2371	1085	3074	1426	3226	1542	3884
<b>Late</b>	467	2152	641	2089	659	2474	792	2927